



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

[NPS-WASO-NAGPRA-NPS0034909; PPWOCRADN0-PCU00RP14.R50000]

### Notice of Inventory Completion: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Anchorage, AK

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM Alaska) has completed an inventory of human remains and has determined that there is a cultural affiliation between the human remains and Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice. The human remains were removed from the Bethel Census Area, Alaska.

**DATES:** Repatriation of the human remains in this notice may occur on or after [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE ***FEDERAL REGISTER***].

**ADDRESSES:** Robert E. King, Bureau of Land Management, 222 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, #13, Anchorage, AK 99513, telephone (907) 271-5510, email [r2king@blm.gov](mailto:r2king@blm.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of BLM Alaska. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice. Additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in the inventory or related records held by BLM Alaska.

### Description

On September 9, 1907, human remains representing, at minimum, four individuals were removed from the Bethel Census Area, nearby the village of Bethel. They were removed during the 1905-1907 expedition to the middle of Alaska's Yukon Valley sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (Penn Museum) and conducted by

George Byron Gordon, General Curator of American Archaeology, and his brother MacLaren Gordon. Subsequently, the human remains, which are over 150 years old, were brought back to the Penn Museum (PM 29-145-1, PM 29-145-2, PM 29-145-5, and PM 29-145-6). No known individuals were identified. No associated funerary objects are present.

### **Cultural Affiliation**

The human remains in this notice are connected to one or more identifiable earlier groups, tribes, peoples, or cultures. There is a relationship of shared group identity between the identifiable earlier groups, tribes, peoples, or cultures and one or more Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations. The following types of information were used to reasonably trace the relationship: archeological information and oral tradition.

### **Determinations**

Pursuant to NAGPRA and its implementing regulations, and after consultation with the appropriate Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations, BLM Alaska has determined that:

- The human remains described in this notice represent the physical remains of four individuals of Native American ancestry.
- There is a relationship of shared group identity that can be reasonably traced between the human remains described in this notice and the Orutsararmiut Traditional Native Council (*previously* listed as Orutsararmuit Native Village (aka Bethel)).

### **Requests for Repatriation**

Written requests for repatriation of the human remains in this notice must be sent to the Responsible Official identified in **ADDRESSES**. Requests for repatriation may be submitted by:

1. Any one or more of the Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice.
2. Any lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice who shows, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the requestor is a lineal descendant or a culturally affiliated Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.

Repatriation of the human remains in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE **FEDERAL**

**REGISTER**]. If competing requests for repatriation are received, BLM Alaska must determine the most appropriate requestor prior to repatriation. Requests for joint repatriation of the human remains are considered a single request and not competing requests. BLM Alaska is responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the Indian Tribe identified in this notice.

**Authority:** Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3003, and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.9, 10.10, and 10.14.

**Dated:** November 16, 2022.

**Melanie O'Brien,**

*Manager, National NAGPRA Program.*

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